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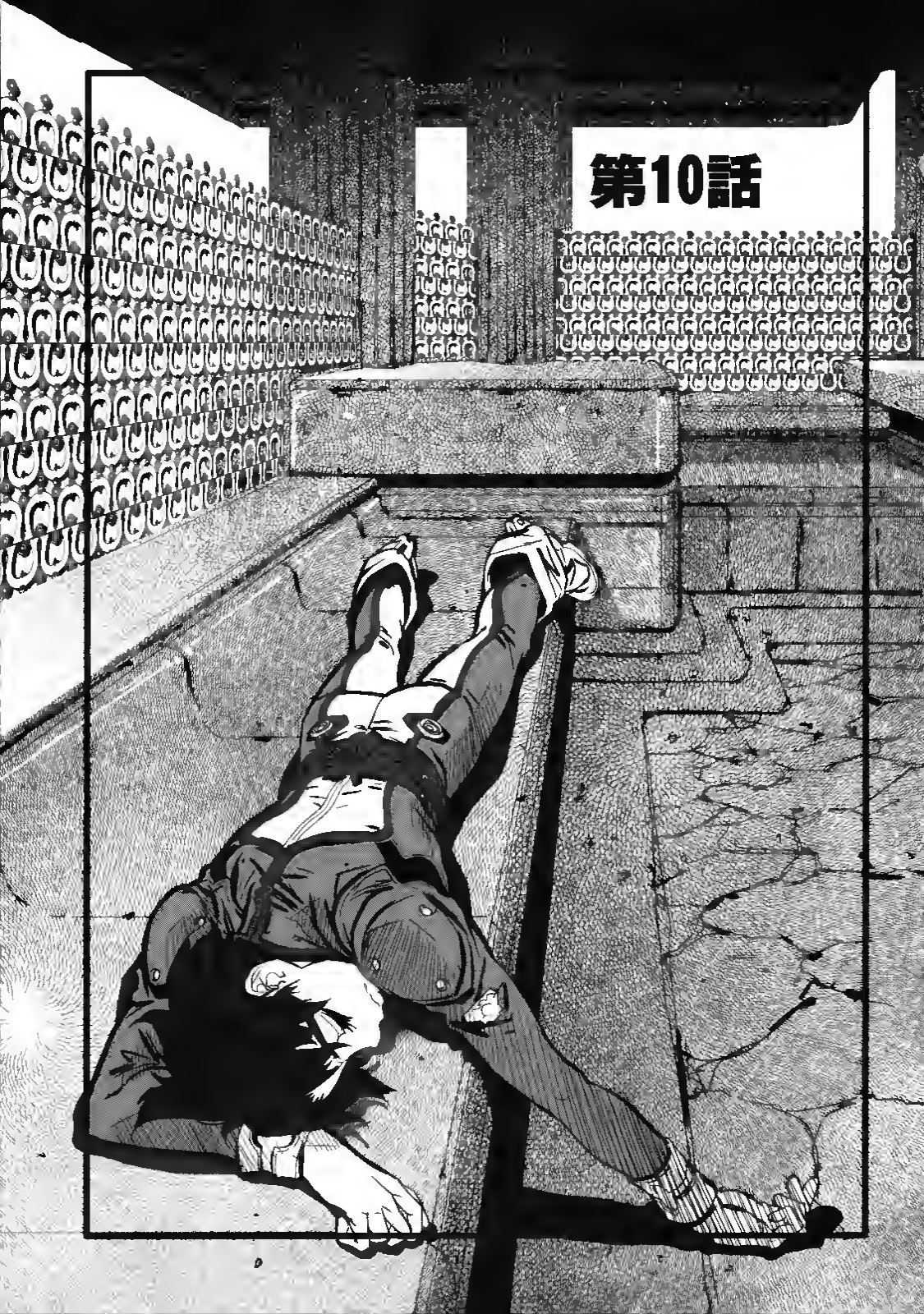
Habanero Scans

Translator
CoolMod

Editor
PimpToad

Quality Checker
Peorth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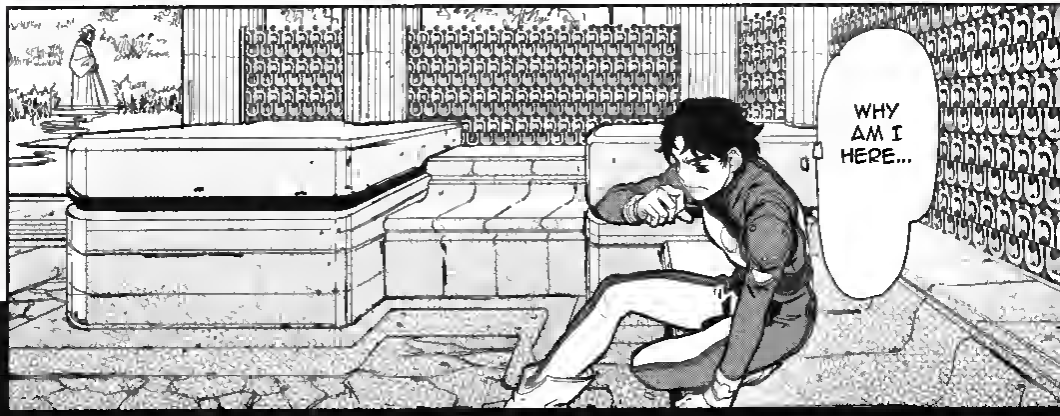
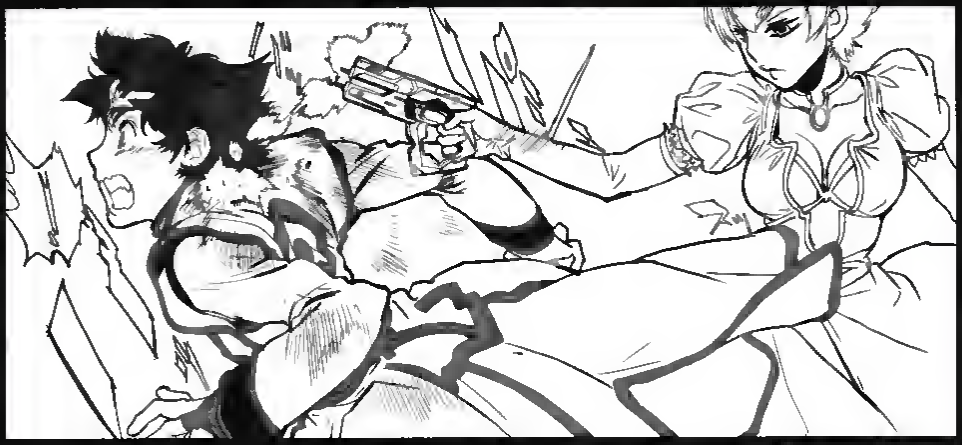
WHERE AM I...


WHY AM I HERE...

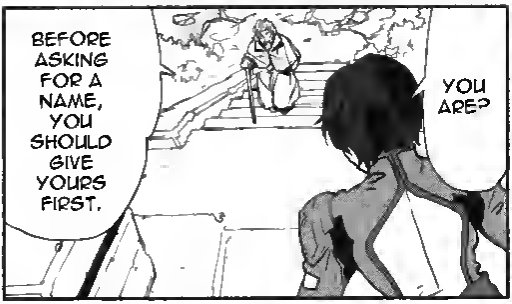
I WILL SHOW YOU WHERE THE BATH-ROOM IS.
THIS IS WHERE YOU CAN REST, COUNT.

AH.



.....
OH. YOU REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS BOY.

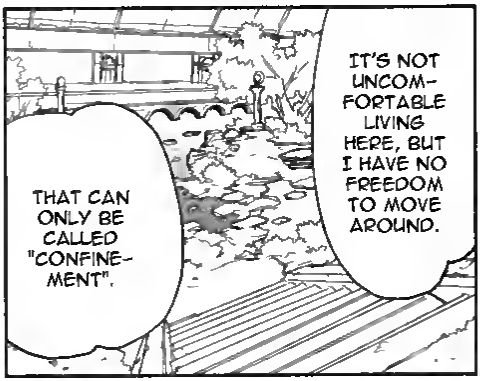
DAMN THAT BAS-TARD OF A BARON!

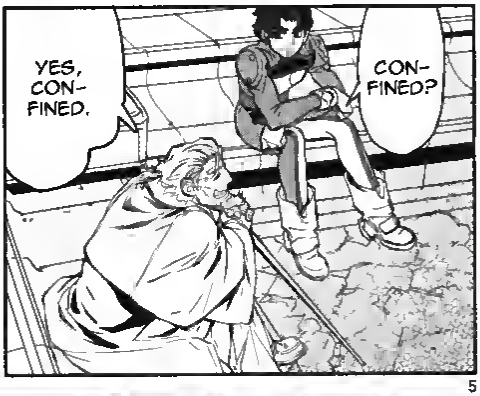

BEFORE ASKING FOR A NAME, YOU SHOULD GIVE YOURS FIRST.
YOU ARE?

.....
LINN SSYNEC ROCR ÏARLUCEC DREUC GHINTEC.

IN OTHER WORDS WE ARE ONE AND THE SAME.
YOU AS WELL.
BUT YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE AN ABH.
A COUNT?
HO HO!
FATHER.
THEN YOU ARE THE CURRENT BARON'S ...
I AM ATOSRYAC SSYNEC ATOSR RYUFU REKA FEBDAK SRUMH.
YOUR EXCELLENCY COUNT HYDE.
WELL, CALM DOWN BOY, NO
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON DOING?
FATHER ..
THAT'S HOW IT IS, SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
YOU DON'T KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
IT SEEMS MY SON HAS DONE SOMETHING, BUT I HARDLY KNOW OF ANY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

I'M CONFINED HERE AS WELL.


IT'S NOT UNCOM-FORTABLE LIVING HERE, BUT I HAVE NO FREEDOM TO MOVE AROUND.
THAT CAN ONLY BE CALLED "CONFINE-MENT".


CON-FINED?
YES, CON-FINED.

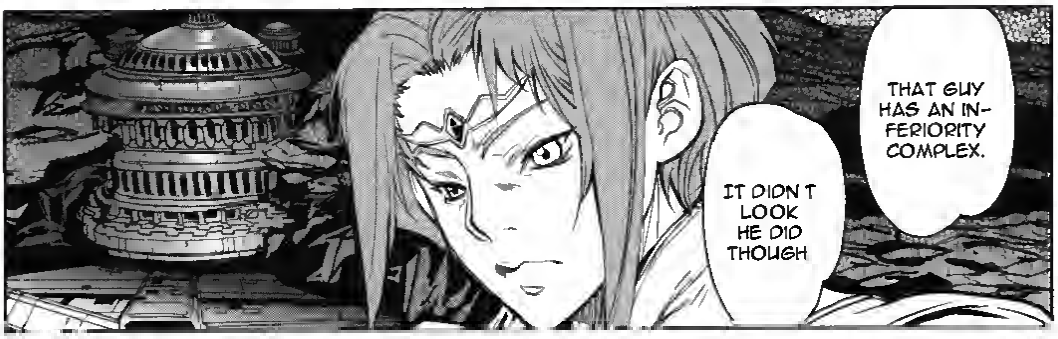
WAS I THE ONLY ONE BROUGHT HERE?
WHERE IS LAFIEL...

!!!

IN OTHER WORDS, I HAVE BEEN CON-FINED AS WELL.
YES.

WAS THERE A GIRL AS WELL?
GIRL? NO, YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE BROUGHT HERE

IS THIS GIRL YOUR LOVER?
.....
WHERE IS MY CREUNOC?
WHO KNOWS? I DIDN'T TAKE ANYTHING. IF IT'S NOT HERE, THEN MY SON TOOK IT.
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I'M SORRY, I DON'T KNOW AND IT'S THE TRUTH I AM CONFINED HERE.
BUT THE BARON IS YOUR SON, CORRECT?
I SHOULD SAY
HE IS UNSATISFIED WITH ME BEING A LANDER, GENETICALLY SPEAKING.
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT HE PROCLAIMS IN FRONT OF THE VASSALS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
I UNDERSTAND IT LESS AND LESS


THAT GUY HAS AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX.
IT DIDN'T LOOK HE DID THOUGH

THE HISTORY OF THE FEBDASH FAMILY IS SHORT AND IT SEEMS HIS LARGE EGO COULDN'T TAKE IT.
IT MAY NOT HAVE LOOKED LIKE THAT, BUT AS HIS FATHER I CAN TELL THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT.

HE CAN'T SWALLOW THAT.
IT IS A GOOD STANDING, BUT ONLY 3 GENERATIONS AGO WE WERE NOT LANDED GENTRY.

THAT'S NOT A BAD STANDING.
BUT HE'S A BARON AND HE HAS A MANOR.

IT SEEMS LIKE IT DOESN'T AFFECT JUST YOU.

HE CAN'T BEAR SEEING A FATHER THAT IS TECHNICALLY A LANDER.
KEEPING ME CONFINED IN THIS PLACE, IT'S MORE LIKELY HE'D RATHER NOT SEE ME THEN HAVING OTHER PEOPLE NOT SEE ME.

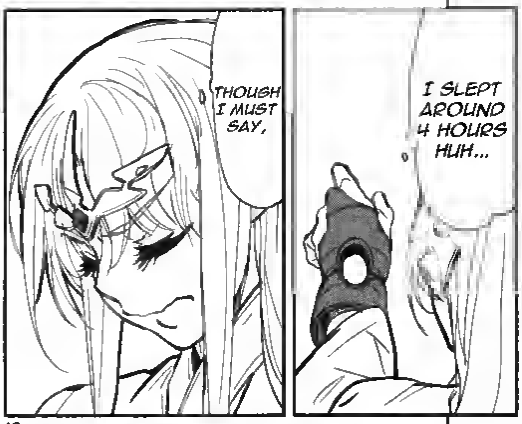
I HAD PLENTY OF TIME.
WHILE I HAVE BEEN LOCKED UP HERE, I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHERE I WENT WRONG DISCIPLINING HIM.
I HAVE NO CREUNOC AND NO ALPHA.
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, I DON'T LOOK LIKE A NOBLE.
ALSO MY IMPERIAL NOBILITY CLOTHING WAS TAKEN AS WELL.
IF YOU'D LIKE, WE COULD DISCUSS CHILD REARING?
LATER.
FOR NOW, I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF YOUR EXCELLENCY.
THAT TRANQUILIZER GUN.
8
PLEASE STOP IT WITH THE "YOUR EXCELLENCY".
I CAN'T FEEL AT EASE
YOU HAVE MANY PROBLEMS, DON'T YOU BOY?
YES
THOUGH I MUST SAY, A COUNT ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS LANDED NOBILITY?

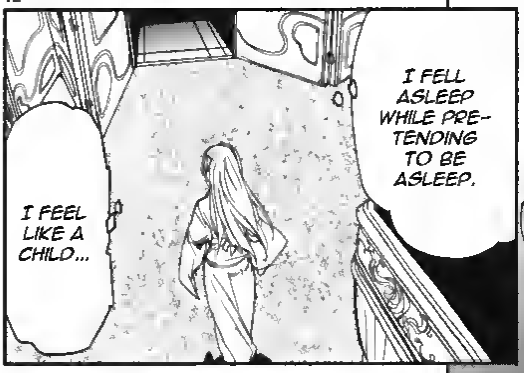
MY FATHER WAS NOT EVEN AN IMPERIAL CITIZEN. MAN THEY REALLY DID A NUMBER.
MY FATHER.
THAT WENT FROM A CITIZEN TO A COUNT?
WAS IT YOUR FATHER, MOTHER, GRAND-FATHER, GRAND-MOTHER...
LATER, I HAVE TO HURRY AND ESCAPE...
WELL, WHATEVER, HOW ABOUT A BATH?
IT SEEMS YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO.
THAT IN-TERESTS ME MORE AND MORE.
NO, I'M SORRY, BUT...
HO HO, YOU COULD TELL ME THAT STORY IF YOU'D LIKE?

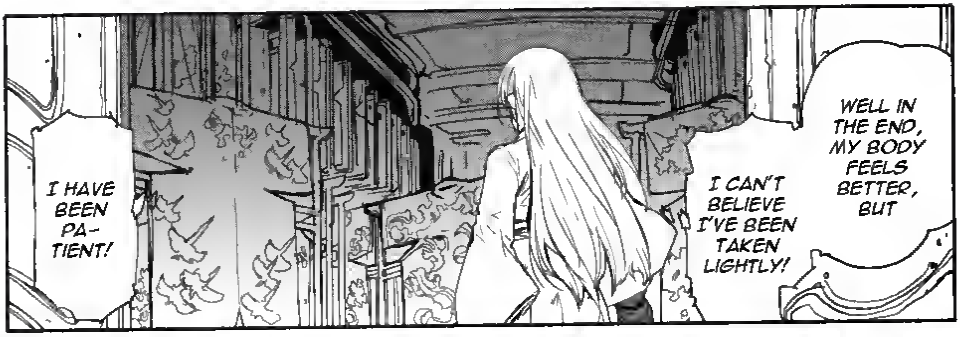
YOU...?
AND AFTER, WE CAN THINK ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS. I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU RIGHT NOW. CLEAN YOUR BODY AND HAVE SOME FOOD.

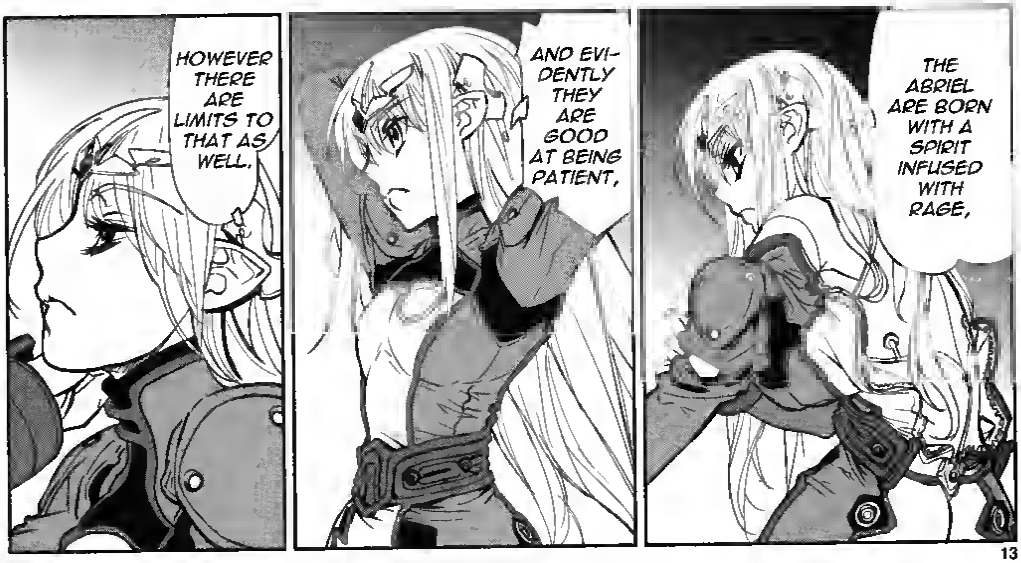
IN THE FIRST PLACE, I WAS JUST CONFINED.
IT LOOKS LIKE I CAN TRUST THIS FORMER BARON.
BUT TRICKING ME MIGHT BE AS EASY AS PUTTING ON SHOES.
HOW MANY HOURS WAS I OUT?
YOU WERE CARRIED HERE ABOUT 5 HOURS AGO.
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY TIME!
TRUST IN WHAT OLD PEOPLE SAY.
AT LEAST IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD IDEA TO WASH YOURSELF WITH SOME HOT WATER.
THERE IS STILL SOME TIME TO FLEE FROM THE ENEMY FLEET.
5 HOURS ...
IF THE BARON IS PLANNING TO DO SOMETHING BAD, THEN IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PLENTY OF TIME.
BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO LAFIEL?

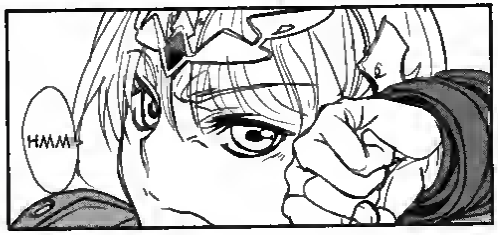
IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO YOUR GIRL
I DON'T MIND, BUT YOU CAN ONLY COMMUNICATE WITH HOUSEKEEPING.
THEN SHE MUST GO TO HOUSEKEEPING
THERE IS ONE.
PLEASE LET ME BORROW IT.
UM, IS THERE A TELEPHONE HERE?
YOU CAN PROBABLY EXPECT THAT.
BUILD UP YOUR STRENGTH THEN WE CAN PLOT SOMETHING, OKAY?
AND AFTER THAT HAVE A MEAL.
GO TO THE BATHROOM, GET YOUR FACE TOGETHER,
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

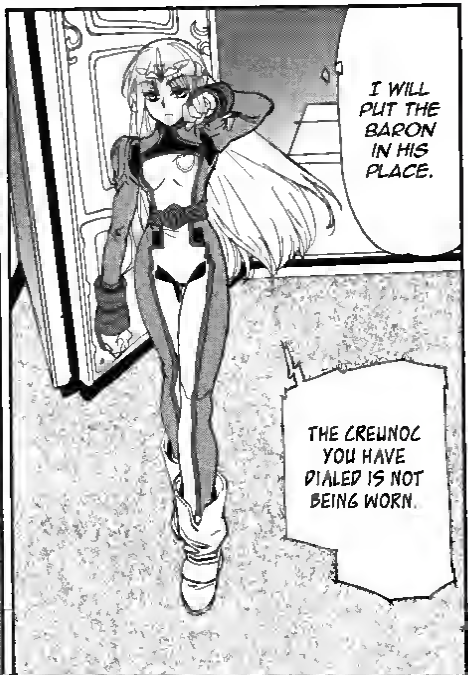

THOUGH I MUST SAY,
I SLEPT AROUND 4 HOURS HUH...


I FELL ASLEEP WHILE PRE-TENDING TO BE ASLEEP.
I FEEL LIKE A CHILD...

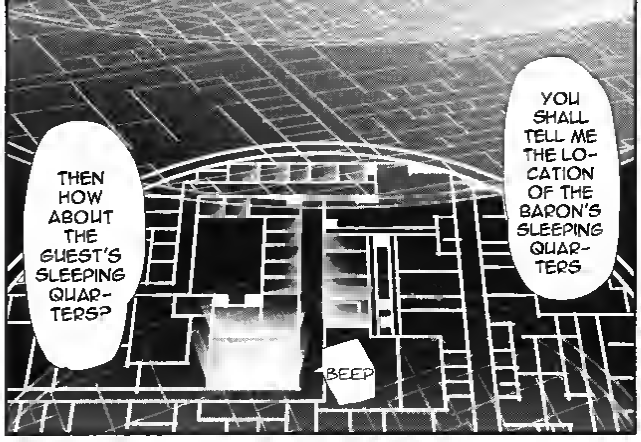

I HAVE BEEN PA-TIENT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE BEEN TAKEN LIGHTLY!
WELL IN THE END, MY BODY FEELS BETTER, BUT


HOWEVER THERE ARE LIMITS TO THAT AS WELL.
AND EVI-DENTLY THEY ARE GOOD AT BEING PATIENT,
THE ABRIEL ARE BORN WITH A SPIRIT INFUSED WITH RAGE,

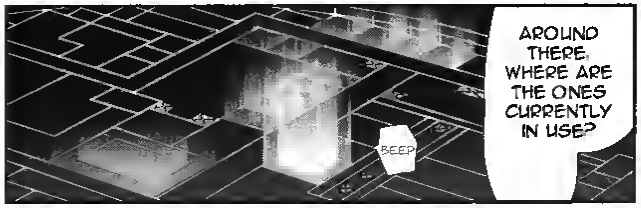

HMM-

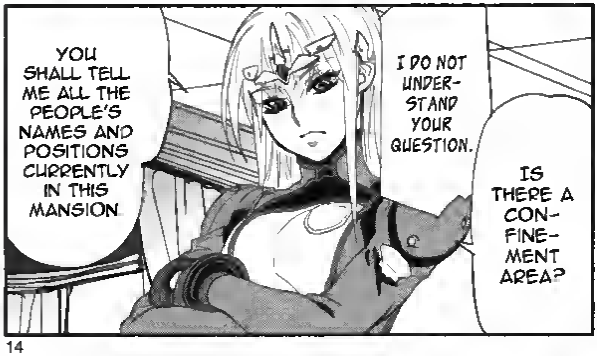

I WILL PUT THE BARON IN HIS PLACE.
THE CREUNOC YOU HAVE DIALED IS NOT BEING WORN.

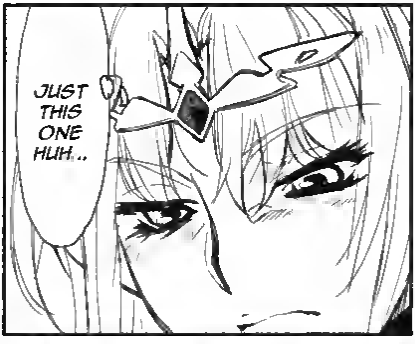
SO HIS CREUNOC WAS TAKEN OFF.
WELL THEN.. WHERE IS JINTO?

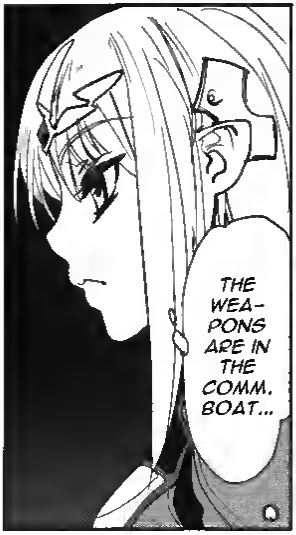

YOU SHALL TELL ME THE LOCATION OF THE BARON'S SLEEPING QUARTERS
THEN HOW ABOUT THE GUEST'S SLEEPING QUARTERS?
BEEP

YOU SHALL TELL ME THE PRESENT LOCATION.


AROUND THERE. WHERE ARE THE ONES CURRENTLY IN USE?
BEEP

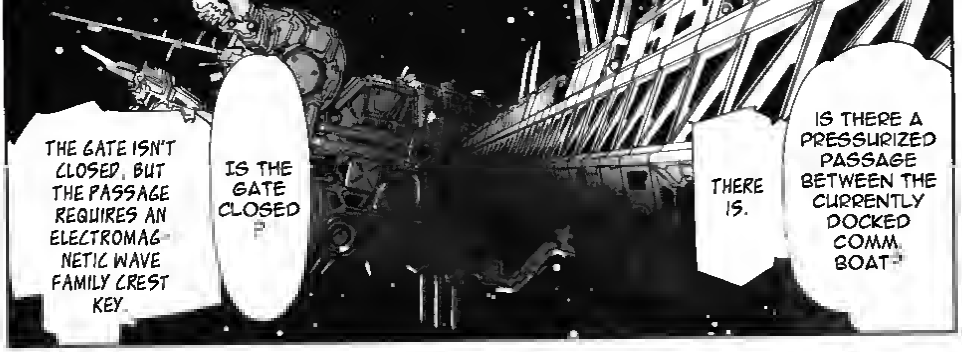

YOU SHALL TELL ME ALL THE PEOPLE'S NAMES AND POSITIONS CURRENTLY IN THIS MANSION.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION.
IS THERE A CONFINEMENT AREA?

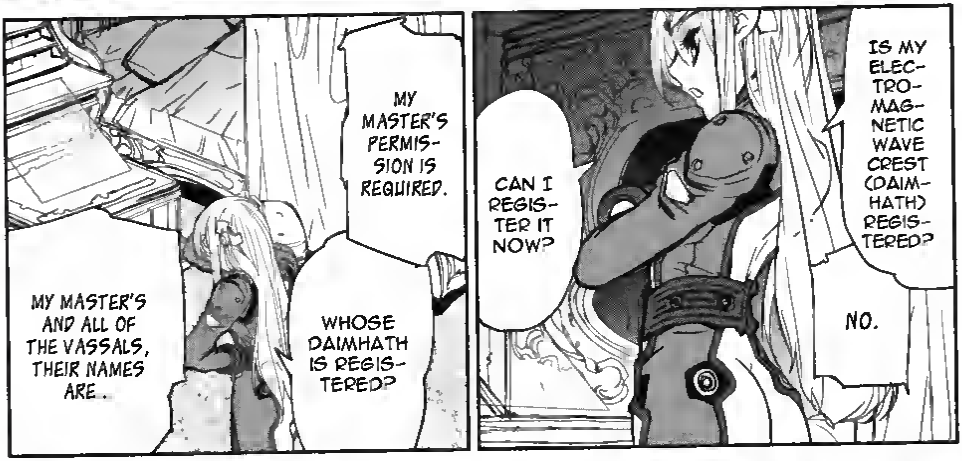

JUST THIS ONE HUH..


THE WEAPONS ARE IN THE COMM. BOAT...

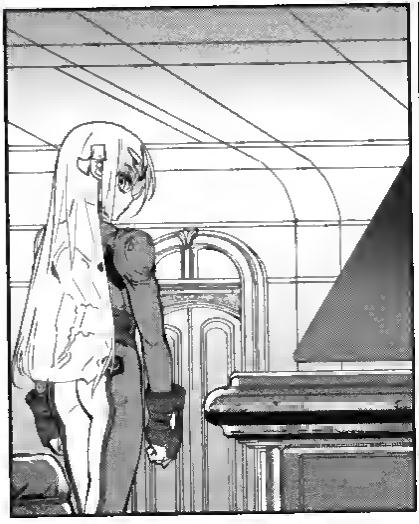
IF IT'S LIKE THIS, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ASK HIM

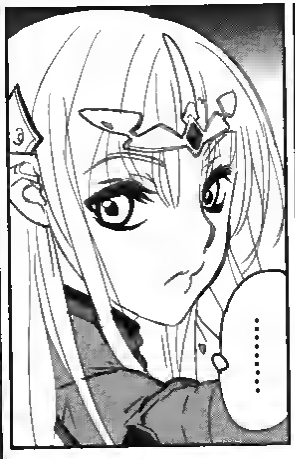
MY MASTER'S PERMISSION IS REQUIRED. WOULD YOU LIKE TO REQUEST PERMISSION? HOWEVER-
NO, IT'S FINE.


IS THERE A PRESSURIZED PASSAGE BETWEEN THE CURRENTLY DOCKED COMM. BOAT?
THERE IS.
IS THE GATE CLOSED?
THE GATE ISN'T CLOSED, BUT THE PASSAGE REQUIRES AN ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVE FAMILY CREST KEY.


IS MY ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVE CREST (DAIMHATH) REGISTERED?
NO.
CAN I REGISTER IT NOW?
MY MASTER'S PERMISSION IS REQUIRED.
WHOSE DAIMHATH IS REGISTERED?
MY MASTER'S AND ALL OF THE VASSALS, THEIR NAMES ARE .

THAT'S ENOUGH.




.....

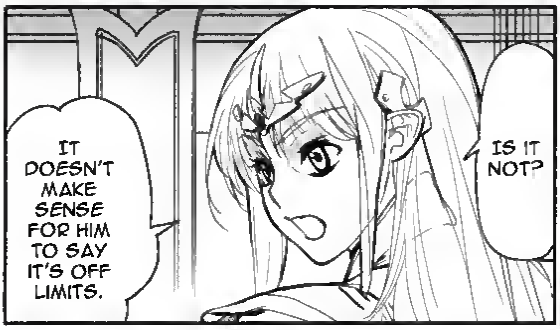
I

THE REASON?
MY MASTER'S ORDERS.
WHY DID THE BARON ORDER THAT?
YES, HIS EXCELLENCY THE FORMER BARON IS CURRENTLY LIVING IN THE BARON FEBDASH TERRITORY.
IT IS NOT.
IS THE FORMER BARON'S DAIMHATH NOT REGISTERED?
THE BARON'S FATHER IS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE, CORRECT?
WHERE IS THE PREVIOUS BARON'S LOCATION?
WITHOUT MY MASTER'S PERMISSION, I CAN'T ANSWER. WOULD YOU LIKE TO REQUEST PERMISSION? HOWEVER, MY MASTER IS CURRENTLY SLEEPING...
IN THE PREVIOUS BARON'S AREA, IS THERE ANYBODY ELSE THERE?
YES, ONE.
WHAT'S THAT PERSON'S NAME?
I DON'T.
I WANT TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THE PREVIOUS BARON, YOU SHALL ARRANGE THAT.
MY MASTER'S PERMISSION IS REQUIRED, WOULD YOU LIKE TO REQUEST PERMISSION? HOWEVER...

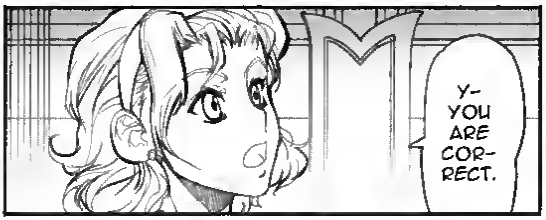
THAT PERSON IS NOT REGIS-TERED.
IS IT A VASSAL ?
NO.
IT SEEMS THIS MANSION HAS AN UN-HAPPY PARENT AND CHILD RELATIONSHIP.
IT ISN'T AN UNCOMMON THING IN A NOBLE'S HOUSEHOLD
YOUR HIGH-NESS!

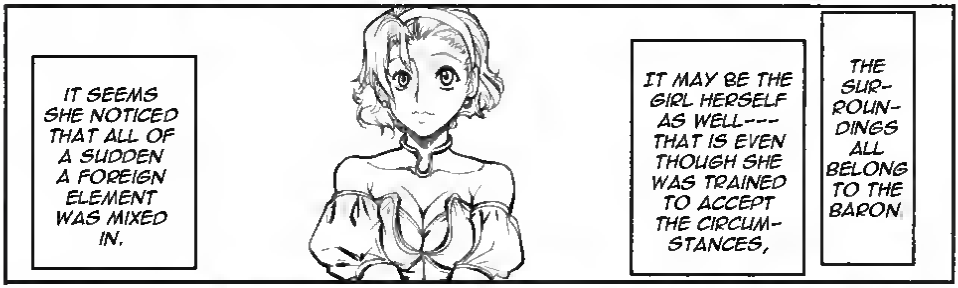
YOU ARE THE VASSAL SEELNAY, ARE YOU NOT?
YOU RE-MEMBERED MY LOWLY NAME!
IT'S AN HONOR YOUR HIGHNESS!
PERISH THE THOUGHT! WHY WOULD I DO SUCH A DISRESPECT-FUL THING?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? ARE YOU KEEPING AN EYE ON ME?
THE FEBDASH FAMILY'S GENERAL IDEA OF DIGNITY SHOULD ALSO BE REFORMED.
I DIDN'T PLAN TO INTERVENE IN THEIR AFFAIRS, BUT
WAS THAT THE BARON'S ORDER?
YES.
THE VASSAL'S ATTITUDE IS BEYOND THE RANGE OF EX-PRESSING RESPECT.
I WAS WAITING TO FULFILL MY DUTY.
I JUST CAME TO PREPARE FOR WHEN YOUR HIGHNESS WOKE UP.

IT MAY BE SYMPATHY THAT I FEEL FOR HER, BUT SHE APPEARS TO BE CONTENT WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
THAT'S WHAT BOTHERS ME.
YOU ALSO NEED TIME TO SLEEP.
AH! IT'S AN HONOR FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT MY LOWLY BODY
IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, BUT WE CHANGE SHIFTS, SO I'M OKAY.
I SHOULD EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOYALTY AND SLAVERY.
BY DOING THIS, DOESN'T IT MAKE ME A POMPOUS FOOL?
PLEASE WAIT YOUR HIGHNESS, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO THE COMM BOAT.
OH.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY YOUR HIGHNESS.
OUR MASTER SAID THAT THE COMM. BOAT AREA IS OFF LIMITS.
DON'T YOU FIND THIS STRANGE!?

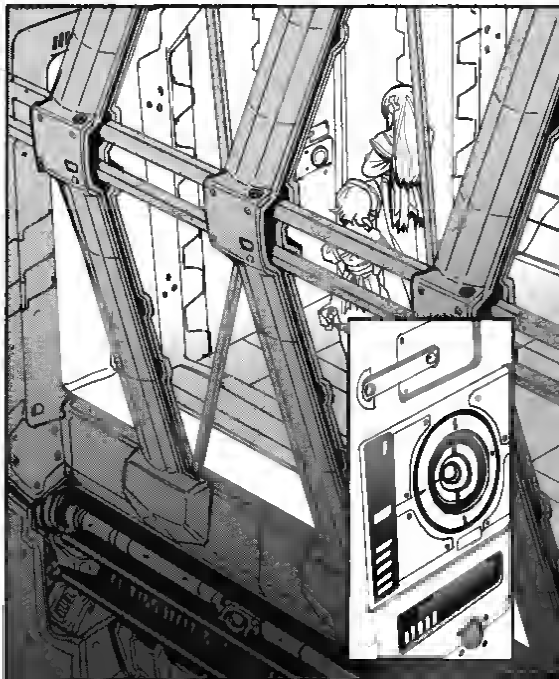

IS IT NOT?
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE FOR HIM TO SAY IT'S OFF LIMITS.

THIS IS OF COURSE THE BARON'S MANOR.
BUT THE COMM. BOAT IS NOT THE BARON'S POSSESSION, IT BELONGS TO THE STAR FORCES AND IS CURRENTLY UNDER MY COMMAND.


Y-YOU ARE COR-RECT.


IT SEEMS SHE NOTICED THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN A FOREIGN ELEMENT WAS MIXED IN.
IT MAY BE THE GIRL HERSELF AS WELL--- THAT IS EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS TRAINED TO ACCEPT THE CIRCUM-STANCES,
THE SUR-ROUN-DINGS ALL BELONG TO THE BARON.

CAN YOU OPEN THE DOORS? MY WAVE CREST IS NOT REG-ISTERED.
I CAN'T MAKE THAT DECISION YOUR HIGHNESS.

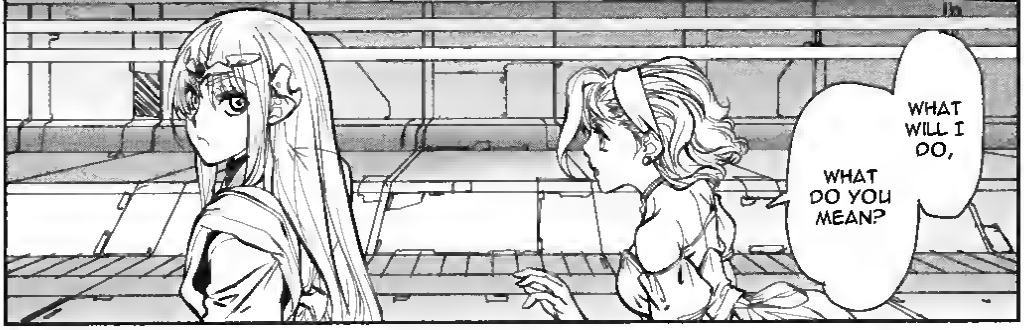


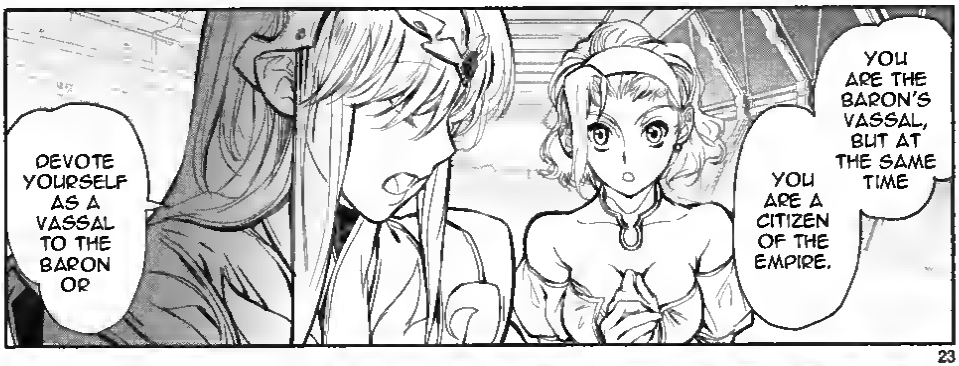
I DREAD THE THOUGHT YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT DO YOU PLAN ON LEAVING LIKE THIS?
I DON'T PLAN ON LEAVING LIKE THIS

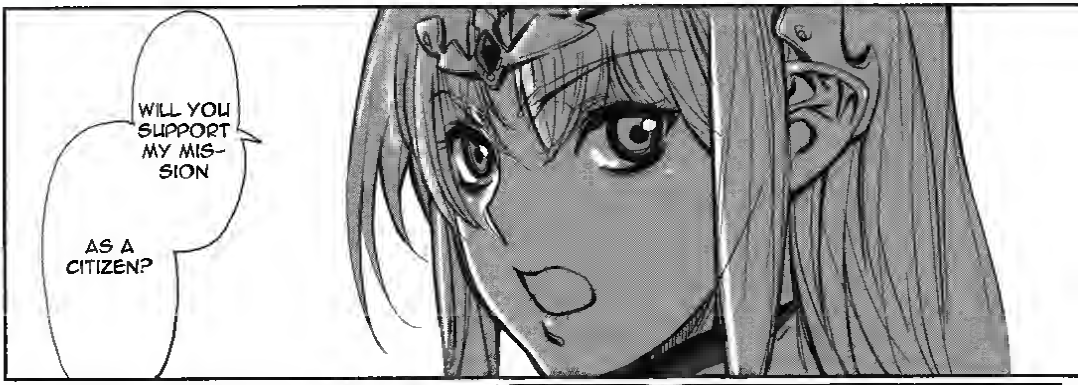
ABOUT WHAT?
NOT THAT ...
DO YOU NOT KNOW?
AS I THOUGHT, WITHOUT GIVING YOUR FAREWELLS TO THE MASTER...

YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW THAT? THE BARON COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT HIMSELF.
THE MASTER DID THAT!?
THE BARON REFUSED TO REFUEL THE SHIP, IT ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE.
HE CONFINED MY COMPANION AS WELL.

THE VASSALS ALSO FOLLOWED THE ORDERS.
.....
IF MY MASTER ORDERS ME AS WELL, I WILL OBEY.
IS WHAT I SAY, BUT I DIDN'T SWEAR AN OATH.
OUR MASTER WON'T GIVE UNNECESSARY INFORMATION TO THE VASSALS.
I WAS TOLD THAT I ONLY NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND THAT HER HIGHNESS HAD STOPPED IN DURING HER MILITARY DUTIES.
BUT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE INCOMING ENEMY FLEET?
I HEARD THE RUMORS.
IN A TERRITORY THIS SMALL RUMORS SPREAD IN NO TIME.
I NEVER HEARD IT FROM THE MASTER HIMSELF.
I SEE.
YES.
SO THEN YOU KNOW NOW.
SO? WHAT WILL YOU DO?


WHAT WILL I DO,
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

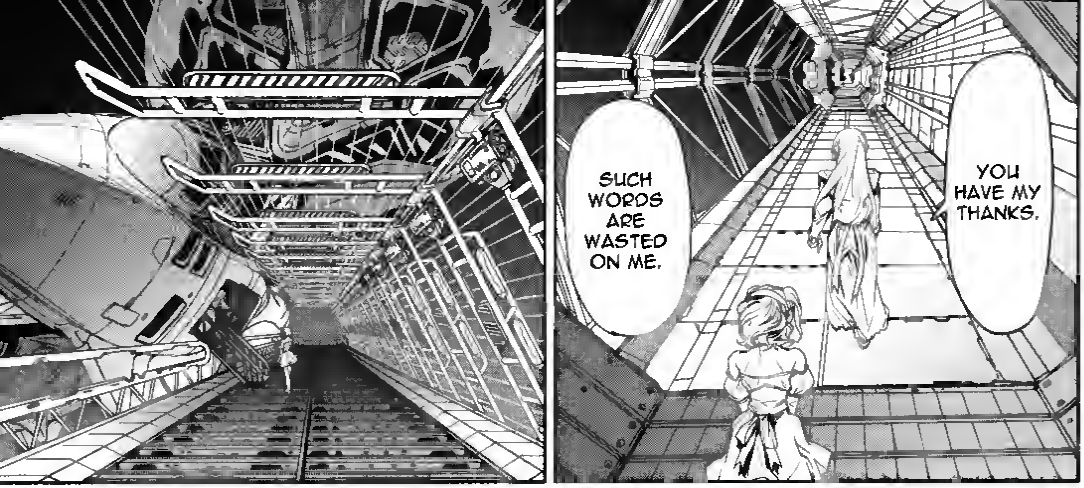

YOU ARE THE BARON'S VASSAL, BUT AT THE SAME TIME
YOU ARE A CITIZEN OF THE EMPIRE.
DEVOTE YOURSELF AS A VASSAL TO THE BARON OR


WILL YOU SUPPORT MY MISSION
AS A CITIZEN?

I UN-
DER-
STAND.

NO...
I WILL
OBEY HER
HIGHNESS'
COMMANDS.

.....
I'M
ASKING
FOR YOUR
ASSIS-
TANCE
AS AN
OFFICER.
I'M NOT
ORDERING
YOU AS
ROYALTY,


YOU HAVE MY THANKS.
SUCH WORDS ARE WASTED ON ME.

MY COMPANION COUNT HYDE
YOU MET HIM AS WELL, HE IS CURRENTLY IMPRISONED.
THAT PERSON HUH...

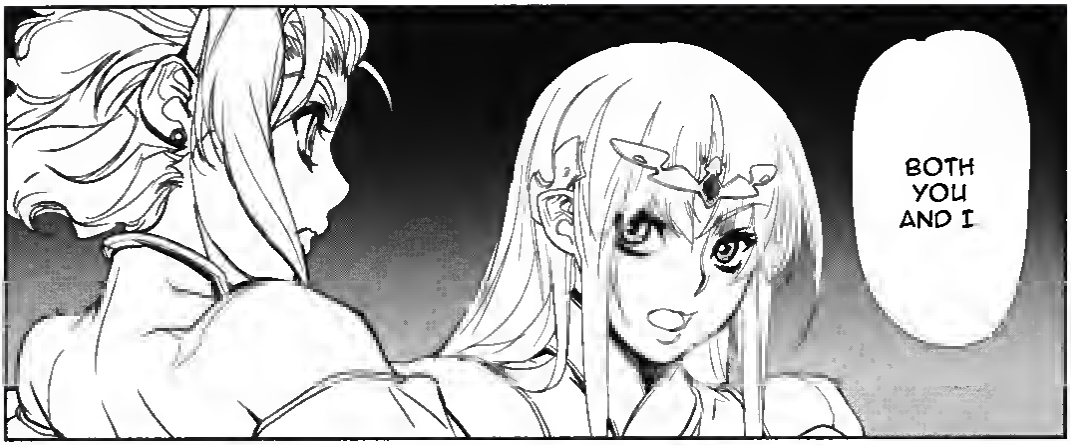
DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS BEING HELD?
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

VASSAL SEELNAY, I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME TO WHERE JINTO IS.
JINTO-SAMA?
WHO IS THAT PERSON?

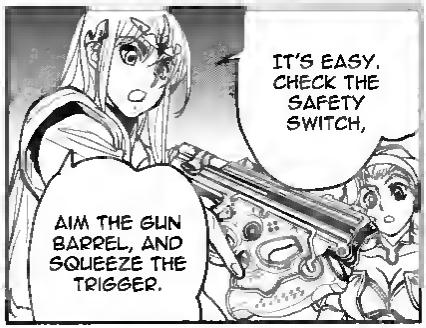
THAT PERSON IS NOT BEING HELD,
HE IS RETIRED.

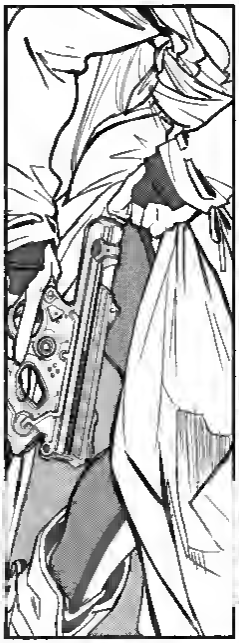
BUT YOU KNOW WHERE THE PREVIOUS BARON IS BEING HELD, CORRECT?
THE BARON'S FATHER?

BY WHATEVER MEANS I WANT TO BE TAKEN TO THAT PERSON.
ANYWAY, IT SEEMS LIKE THEY ARE TOGETHER.
I'M NOT IN CHARGE OF THAT.
BUT THAT IS INDEED ODD.
THEN WHY CAN'T I CONTACT HIM AS WELL?
YES.
HMM IT'S LOCKED
IS THERE NO WAY TO CONTACT THEM?
IF WE DON'T HAVE THE MASTER'S PERMISSION, WE CAN'T STEP FOOT IN THERE.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
IF YOU MEAN WITHOUT BEING QUESTIONED, THEN IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I WONDER IF WE CAN INFILTRATE IT.
ONLY A FEW VASSALS ARE ALLOWED IN THERE.
I BELIEVE THE HOUSEKEEPING ROOM'S COMMUNICATION DEVICE CAN, BUT
LET'S TAKE CONTROL.
THEN

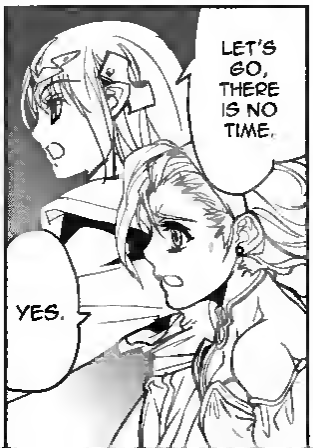

BOTH YOU AND I

CAN YOU USE THIS?
NO, I HAVE NEVER USED ONE

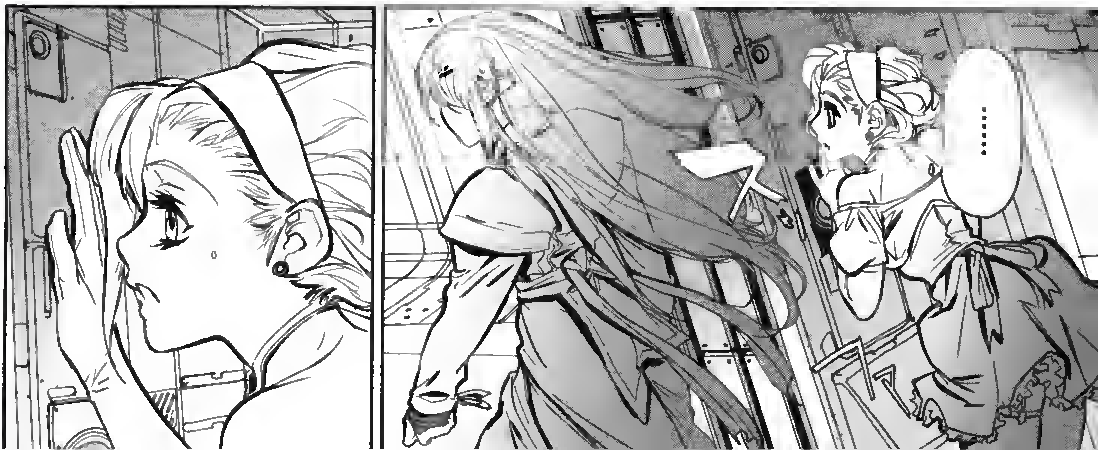

IT'S EASY. CHECK THE SAFETY SWITCH,
AIM THE GUN BARREL, AND SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER.



EH?
AH.

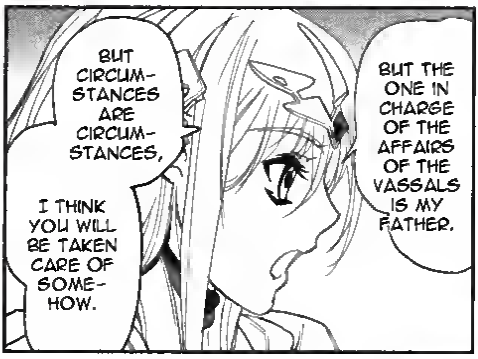

LET'S GO, THERE IS NO TIME.
YES.

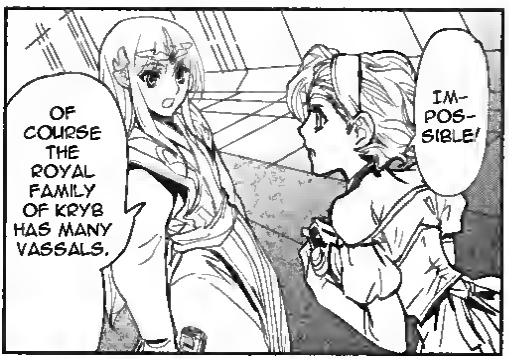
I...
AM COMMITTING TREASON AGAINST THE MASTER!
OPENING.

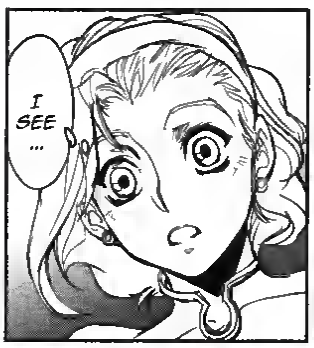

.....

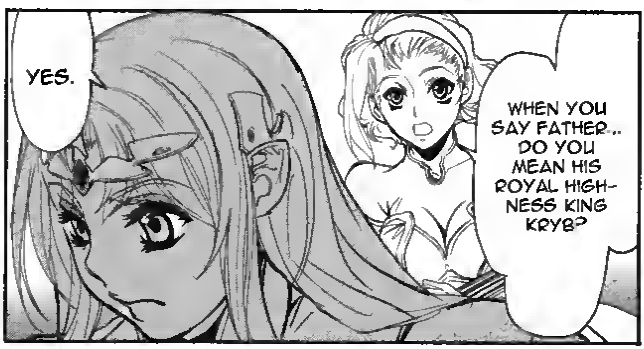
YOU SHALL SAY IT.
I HAVE A REQUEST.
YOUR HIGHNESS
WHAT?
PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR HIGHNESS' VASSALS
I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STAY HERE
SINCE I AM GOING AGAINST THE MASTER

DID I OVERSTEP MY BOUNDS WITH THIS WISH?
.....
AH, THAT'S RIGHT
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY VASSALS.

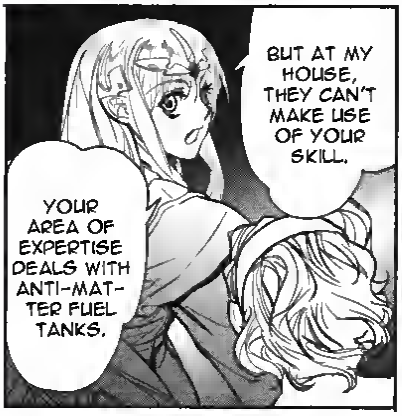

BUT CIRCUM-STANCES ARE CIRCUM-STANCES,
I THINK YOU WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF SOME-HOW.
BUT THE ONE IN CHARGE OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE VASSALS IS MY FATHER.


OF COURSE THE ROYAL FAMILY OF KRYB HAS MANY VASSALS.
IM-POS-SIBLE!


I SEE ...


YES.
WHEN YOU SAY FATHER.. DO YOU MEAN HIS ROYAL HIGH-NESS KING KRYB?

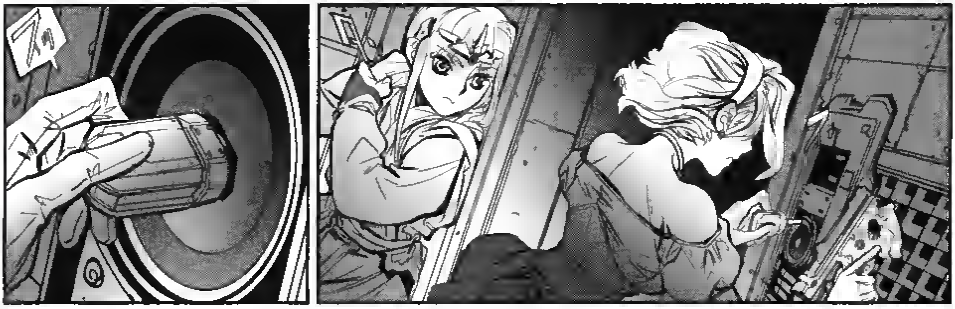
30


BUT AT MY HOUSE, THEY CAN'T MAKE USE OF YOUR SKILL.
YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE DEALS WITH ANTI-MAT-TER FUEL TANKS.

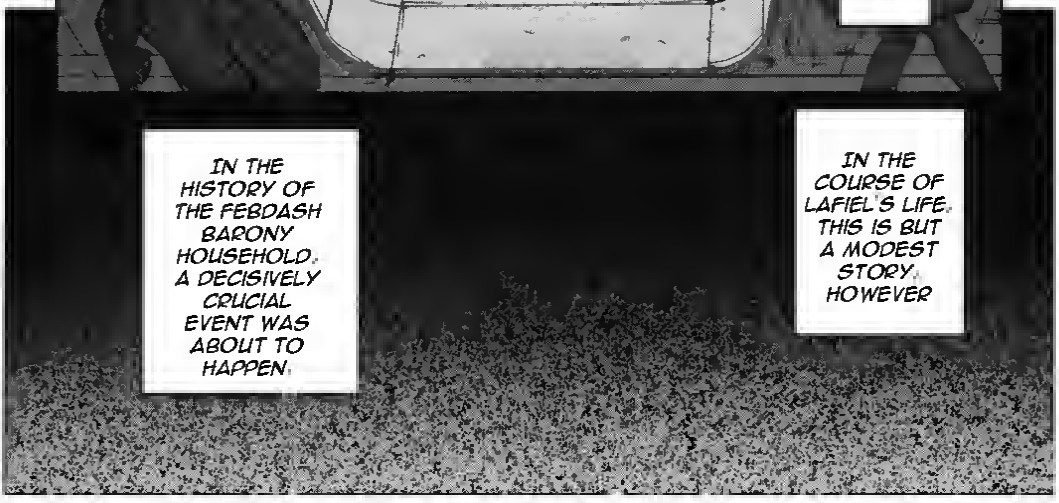
THE ONE WHO IS WITHIN HANDS REACH IS
THE ROYAL FAMILY!

AH, IT'S AN HONOR.
YOU SHALL STOP THAT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "THAT"?
NEVER MIND.
ANYWAY, DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD GO TO A PLACE WHERE YOUR SKILL COULD BE PUT TO USE?
I AM HONORED THAT YOU ARE THINKING OF MY FUTURE.
BUT YOUR HIGHNESS, I CAN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER.
I UNDERSTAND THAT.
WE SHALL LEAVE THIS PLACE.
BUT I CAN'T PROMISE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO WORK FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY.
THOSE WORDS ALONE ARE GOOD ENOUGH.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS ON THE HORIZON, BUT

AT THE VERY LEAST I CAN ACCOMPANY YOU TO LAKFAKALLE.



AND THE DOOR OPENED.


IN THE HISTORY OF THE FEBDASH BARONY HOUSEHOLD, A DECISIVELY CRUCIAL EVENT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
IN THE COURSE OF LAFIEL'S LIFE, THIS IS BUT A MODEST STORY. HOWEVER

WILL BE CONTINUED IN
[CREST OF THE STARS]
VOLUME 3